

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NP, IN, PFOR

SUBJECT: KING BIRENDRA'S FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH

SUMMARY: IN BRIEF ADDRESS JULY 26, KING BIRENDRA REITERATED BASIC PRINCIPLES OF NEPAL'S TRADITIONAL FOREIGN POLICY. LOCAL REACTION IS MIXED AS TO WHETHER THRUST WAS VEILED ADMONITION TO INDIA TO EASE PRESSURES AGAINST NEPAL OR WHETHER MAJOR POINT WAS APPEAL TO NEPAL'S EDUCATED ELITE TO SUBORDINATE POLITICKING TO WORKING FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT FUNCTION SPONSORED BY NEPAL COUNCIL WORLD AFFAIRS JULY 26, KING BIRENDRA, IN FIRST ADDRESS BILLED AS "FOREIGN POLICY" SINCE ACCESSION, READ IN ENGLISH FROM PREPARED TEXT FOR TEN MINUTES TO MEMBERS AND DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER GUESTS. REITERATION OF PRINCIPLES NEPAL'S TRADITIONAL FOREIGN POLICY CONTAINED NO SURPRISES, TO EXTENT UTILIZATION NOW HACKNEYED ANALOGY OF NEPAL AS "YAM BETWEEN TWO HUGE BOULDERS."

2. SOME LOCAL OBSERVERS FOUND OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE, HOWEVER, AND READ AS DIRECTED AGAINST INDIA, FOLLOWING REMARKS: "A CURSORY GLANCE AT THE THEATER OF WORLD POLITICS
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TODAY GIVES ONE AN IMPRESSION THAT WHILE THE COLONIAL ERA

HAS COME TO AN END, THE ATTEMPT TO CREATE A RESPECTIVE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE BY FURTIVE MEANS HAS CONTINUED. . . A LOOK AT THE DRAMA OF WORLD POLITICS MAKES A DISPASSIONATE OBSERVER FEEL PITY AT THE FATE OF SOME SMALL NATIONS WHICH STRIVING FOR LIBERATION OR FREEDOM HAVE ONLY SUCCUMBED TO SUBJUGATION AND DRUDGERY; IT REMINDS PEOPLE THAT THE FIRE OF COLONIAL DESIRE HAS NOT BEEN ENTIRELY EXTINGUISHED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH."

3. REMARKS CONCERNING LOCAL OPPOSITIONIST WERE MUCH MORE EXPLICIT. "IT IS MY OBSERVATION TODAY," KING SAID, "THAT COUNTRIES THAT STRICTLY ADHERED TO SET POLITICAL DOGMAS HAVE BLUNTED THEIR IDEOLOGICAL EDGE TO MAKE ADJUSTMENT IN NATIONAL SELF-INTEREST. BEFORE SUCH KNOWLEDGE, IT LOOKS OSTENTATIOUS ON THE PART OF SOME NEPALESE INTELLECTUALS TO HOLD ON TO A ROUGH AND READY MADE DOCTRINE WITHOUT MODIFICATION OR ADJUSTMENT TO OUR NATIONAL INTEREST. . . TO YOU, MEN OF LETTERS, THINKERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS, WHETHER THEY ARE WITHIN OR WITHOUT THIS ASSOCIATION, I WISH TO REMIND THAT IN THE PARTYLESS PANCHAYAT SYSTEM OF DEMOCRACY WE HAVE GRANTED A SPECIAL VOICE FOR THE GRADUATES OVER AND ABOVE THE ADULT SUFFRAGE. . . I DEEM IT THEREFORE RIGHT TO CHARGE YOU WITH A RESPONSIBILITY TO BRING TO OUR BELOVED PEOPLE NOT ONLY REDEMPTION FROM MATERIAL POVERTY BUT ALSO THEIR POVERTY OF MINDS. . . I TRUST YOU WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A TRADITION OF INDEPENDENT THINKING WITHOUT CONSIDERATION TO PARTY, FACTIONAL OR PETTY POLITICS."

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